

FIG. 1

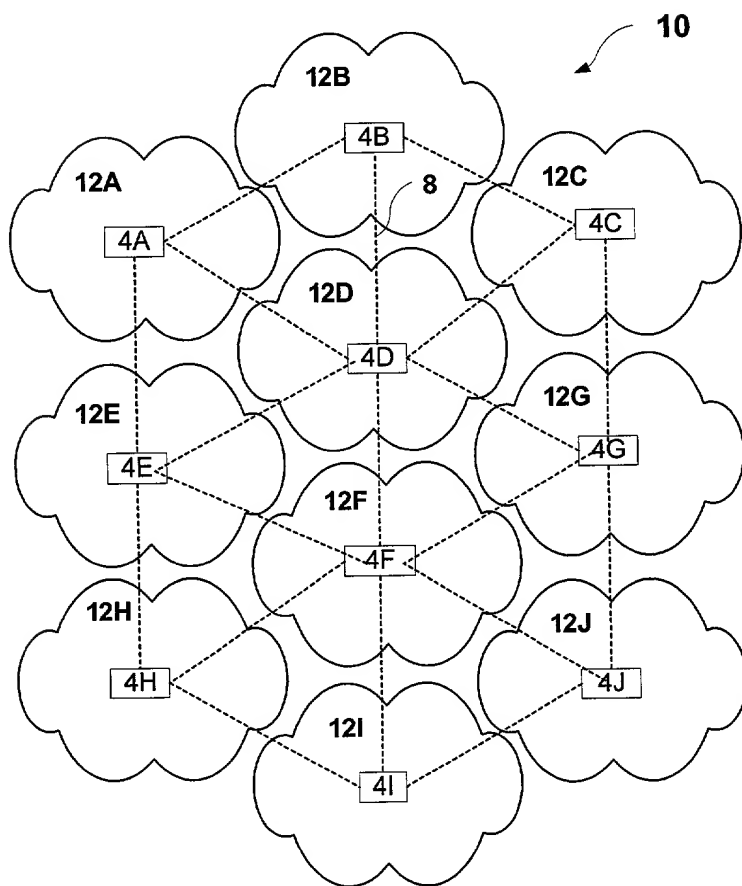


FIG. 2

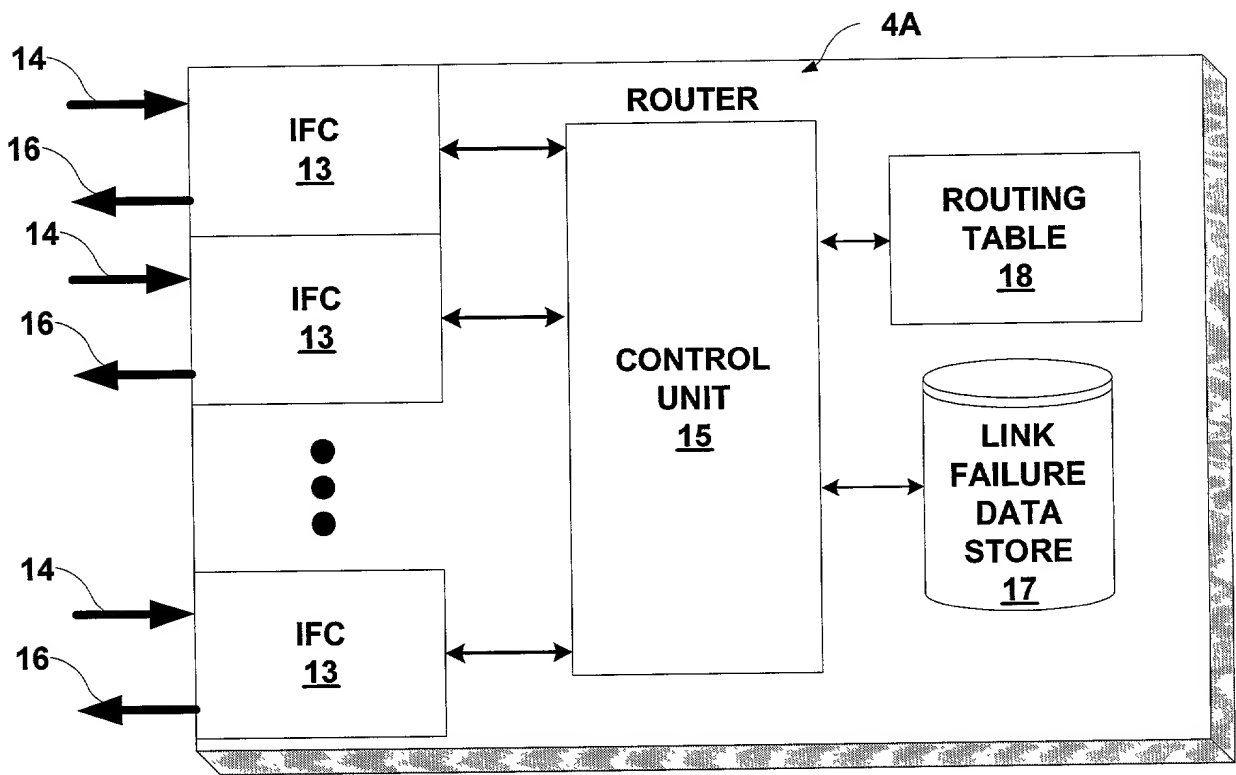


FIG. 3

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of a data structure 20, which may be a packet or a frame, according to one embodiment of the present invention. The data structure 20 includes an origin ID field 22, an instance ID field 24, a timestamp field 26, a link descriptor field 28, a time valid field 30, a time store field 32, and a security data field 34.

20

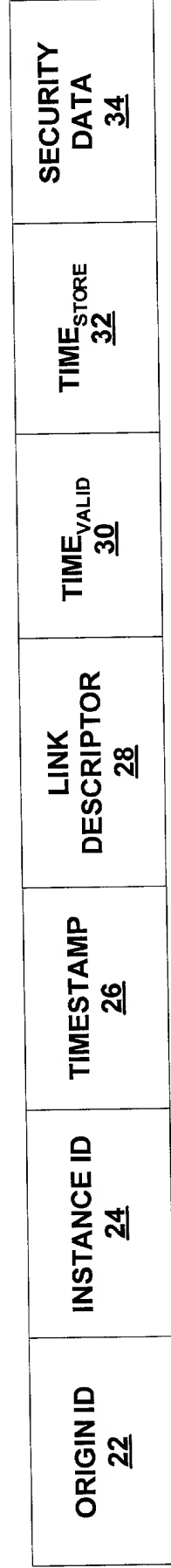


FIG. 4

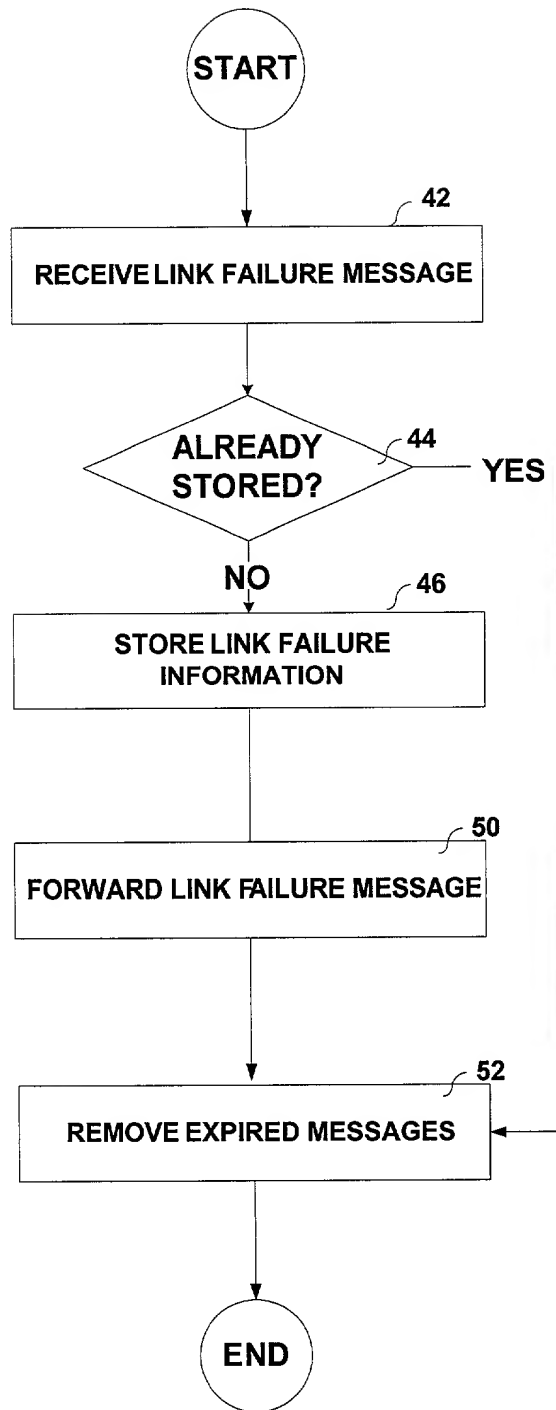


FIG. 5

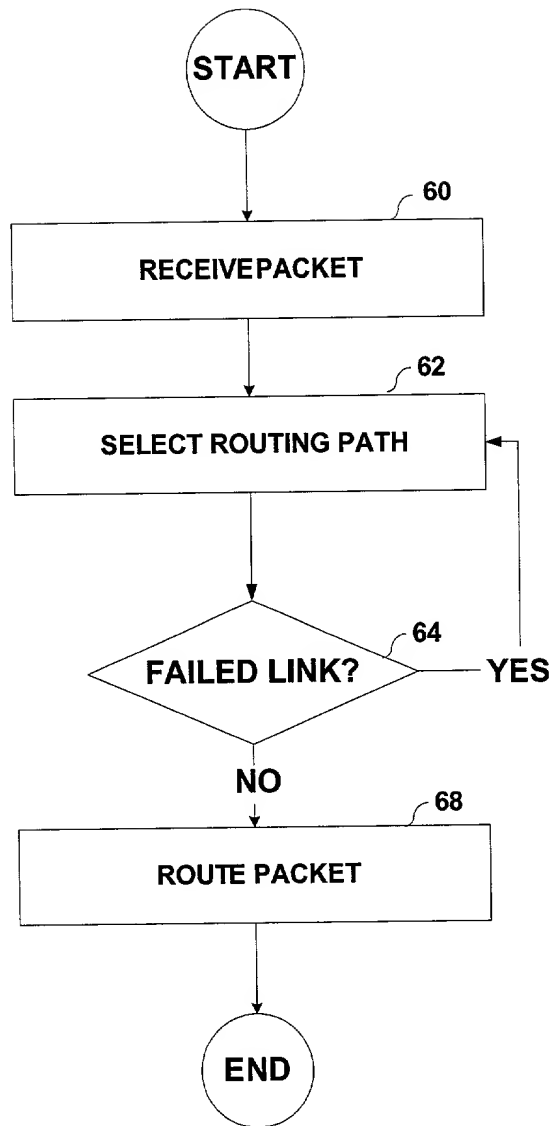


FIG. 6

FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram of a network architecture 70. The network architecture 70 includes three main components: 72A, 72B, and 72C. Component 72A is a cloud containing sub-components 12A, 12B, and 12D. Component 72B is a cloud containing sub-components 12E, 12F, 12H, 12I, and 12J. Component 72C is a cloud containing sub-components 12C and 12G. Each sub-component (12A, 12B, 12C, 12D, 12E, 12F, 12H, 12I, 12J) is represented by a cloud shape and contains a small square icon with the number 4. Dashed lines represent connections between these sub-components. Within 72A, 12A is connected to 12B and 12D. Within 72B, 12E is connected to 12F and 12H; 12H is connected to 12I; 12I is connected to 12J; and 12F is connected to 12I. Between 72A and 72B, 12B is connected to 12F and 12D is connected to 12I. Between 72A and 72C, 12D is connected to 12C. Within 72C, 12C is connected to 12G. Additionally, dashed lines labeled 76A connect sub-components 12B and 12D to sub-components 12F and 12I, respectively. A reference numeral 70 points to the overall network architecture.

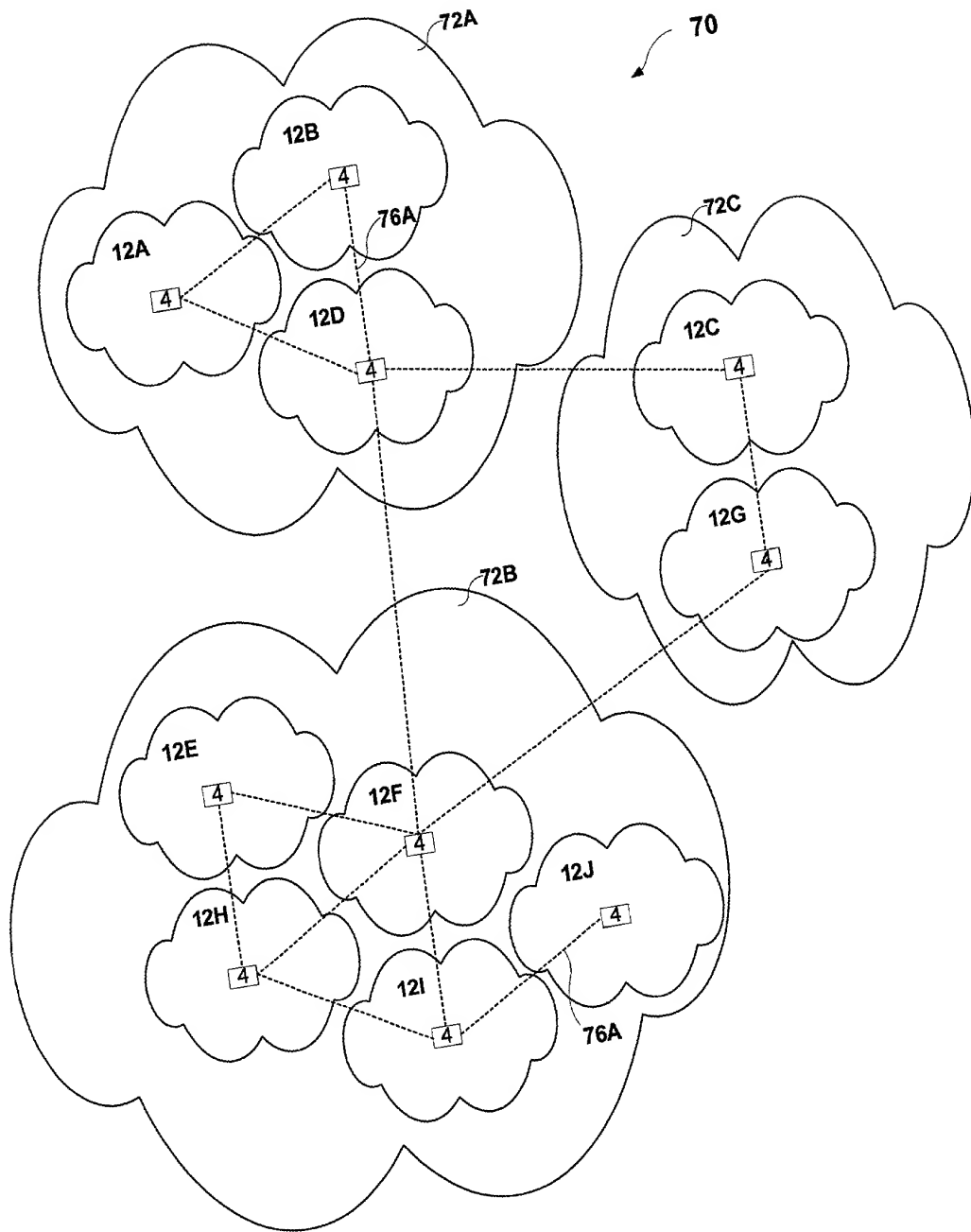


FIG. 7

FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram of a network 80, including four cloud-based networks 12A, 12B, 12C, and 12D. Network 12A includes a server 82A and a client 4. Network 12B includes a client 4. Network 12C includes a server 4 and a client 4. Network 12D includes a server 4 and a client 4. The networks are interconnected via a central network 80.

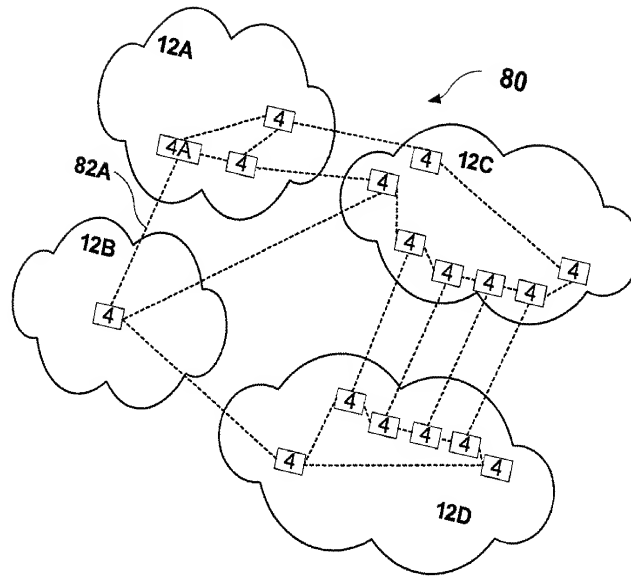


FIG. 8